

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

FRANCISCO CAMACHO and
EVELYN CAMACHO,

Plaintiffs,

-against-

THE CITY OF NEW YORK, NEW YORK CITY,
POLICE OFFICER SANTOS, 83rd precinct,
POLICE OFFICER JOHN BARTEK shield # 29956,
POLICE OFFICER BLAINE HENNIG shield # 15888,
POLICE OFFICER ANDY URENA, shield # 7427,
POLICE OFFICER ABRAHAM ORTIZ 22342
POLICE OFFICER DWIGHT THOMAS, shield # 12846
POLICE SERGEANT KEITH HOWELL, shield # 3772
POLICE OFFICER GREGORY CHAVOUS, shield # 6660
POLICE OFFICER LOUIS MORSELLI, shield # 28587
POLICE OFFICER MICHAEL HARVEY, shield # 1830
POLICE OFFICERS JOHN/JANE DOE(S) #'s 1-5,

Defendants.

**ANSWER TO THE
AMENDED COMPLAINT ON
BEHALF OF DEFENDANTS
MORSELLI, THOMAS AND
CHAVOUS**

Jury Trial Demanded

07 Civ. 5581 (SHS)

Defendants Dwight Thomas, Gregory Chavous and Louis Morselli¹, by their attorney, Michael A. Cardozo, Corporation Counsel of the City of New York, for their answer to the amended complaint, respectfully allege, upon information and belief, as follows:

1. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "1" of the amended complaint, except admit that plaintiffs purport to proceed as stated therein, and deny knowledge or

¹ Defendants City of New York, Santos, Hennig and Bartek previously interposed an answer to the amended complaint on November 30, 2007. On information and belief, defendants Urena, Howell, Ortiz and Harvey have yet not been served with process in this matter.

information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations concerning the length of plaintiff Francisco Camacho's detention.

2. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "2" of the amended complaint, except admit that plaintiffs purport to invoke the jurisdiction of this Court as stated therein.

3. Deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in paragraph "3" of the amended complaint.

4. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "4" of the amended complaint, except admit that the City of New York is a municipal corporation duly organized and operating under the laws of the States of New York and that the City of New York maintains a police department.

5. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "5" of the amended complaint, except admit that John Bartek is employed by the City of New York as a police officer and state that the allegations that defendant Bartek acted "within the scope of his employment" and "under color of state and local law" are conclusions of law, rather than averments of fact, to which no response is required.

6. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "6" of the amended complaint, except admit that Jose Santos is employed by the City of New York as a police officer and state that the allegations that defendant Santos acted "within the scope of his employment" and "under color of state and local law" are conclusions of law, rather than averments of fact, to which no response is required.

7. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "7" of the amended complaint, except admit that Blaine Hennig is employed by the City of New York as a police officer and state that the allegations that defendant Hennig acted "within the scope of his employment" and

“under color of state and local law” are conclusions of law, rather than averments of fact, to which no response is required.

8. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “8” of the amended complaint, except admit that Andy Urena was employed by the City of New York as a police officer and state that the allegations that defendant Urena acted “within the scope of his employment” and “under color of state and local law” are conclusions of law, rather than averments of fact, to which no response is required.

9. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “9” of the amended complaint, except admit that Abraham Ortiz was employed by the City of New York as a police officer and state that the allegations that defendant Ortiz acted “within the scope of his employment” and “under color of state and local law” are conclusions of law, rather than averments of fact, to which no response is required.

10. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “10” of the amended complaint, except admit that Dwight Thomas is employed by the City of New York as a police officer and state that the allegations that defendant Thomas acted “within the scope of his employment” and “under color of state and local law” are conclusions of law, rather than averments of fact, to which no response is required.

11. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “11” of the amended complaint, except admit that Keith Howell is employed by the City of New York as a police sergeant and state that the allegations that defendant Howell acted “within the scope of his employment” and “under color of state and local law” are conclusions of law, rather than averments of fact, to which no response is required.

12. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “12” of the amended complaint, except admit that Gregory Chavous is employed by the City of New York as a police officer and

state that the allegations that defendant Chavous acted “within the scope of his employment” and “under color of state and local law” are conclusions of law, rather than averments of fact, to which no response is required.

13. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “13” of the amended complaint, except admit that Louis Morselli is employed by the City of New York as a police officer and state that the allegations that defendant Morselli acted “within the scope of his employment” and “under color of state and local law” are conclusions of law, rather than averments of fact, to which no response is required.

14. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “14” of the amended complaint, except admit that Michael Harvey is employed by the City of New York as a police officer and state that the allegations that defendant Harvey acted “within the scope of his employment” and “under color of state and local law” are conclusions of law, rather than averments of fact, to which no response is required.

15. Deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in paragraph “15” of the amended complaint.

16. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “16” of the amended complaint, except admit that the City of New York maintains a police department.

17. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “17” of the amended complaint.

18. Deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in paragraph “18” of the amended complaint.

19. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “19” of the amended complaint, except deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations concerning whether plaintiff had a seizure.

20. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “20” of the amended complaint, except deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations concerning plaintiff’s medical condition.

21. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “21” of amended complaint.

22. Deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in paragraph “22” of the amended complaint.

23. Deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in paragraph “23” of the amended complaint, except admit that plaintiff purports to have pled guilty to disorderly conduct.

24. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “24” of the amended complaint, except admit that a document purporting to be a Notice of Claim was received by the Comptroller’s Office of the City of New York on or about December 13, 2006, and respectfully refer the Court to the document referenced therein for a statement of its contents.

25. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “25” of the amended complaint, except admit that a document purporting to be a Notice of Claim was received by the Comptroller’s Office of the City of New York on or about December 21, 2006, and respectfully refer the Court to the document referenced therein for a statement of its contents.

26. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “26” of the amended complaint.

27. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “27” of the amended complaint.

28. In response to the allegations set forth in paragraph “28” of the amended complaint, defendants repeat and reallege paragraphs “1” through “27” of this answer as if fully set forth herein.

29. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “29” of the amended complaint.

30. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “30” of the amended complaint.

31. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “31” of the amended complaint.

32. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “32” of the amended complaint.

33. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “33” of the amended complaint.

34. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “34” of the amended complaint.

35. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “35” of the amended complaint.

36. In response to the allegations set forth in paragraph “36” of the amended complaint, defendants repeat and reallege paragraphs “1” through “35” of this answer as if fully set forth herein.

37. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “37” of the amended complaint.

38. Admit the allegations set forth in paragraph “38” of the amended complaint.

39. Deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in paragraph “39” of the amended complaint.

40. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “33” of the amended complaint.

41. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “41” of the amended complaint.

42. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “42” of the amended complaint.

43. In response to the allegations set forth in paragraph “43” of the amended complaint, defendants repeat and reallege paragraphs “1” through “42” of this answer as if fully set forth herein.

44. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “44” of the amended complaint.

45. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “45” of the amended complaint, including the presumption that excessive force was used.

46. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “46” of the amended complaint.

47. Admit the allegations set forth in paragraph “47” of the amended complaint, except deny that excessive force was used and deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations concerning whether plaintiff had an epileptic seizure.

48. Deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in paragraph “48” of the amended complaint.

49. Deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in paragraph “49” of the amended complaint.

50. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “50” of the amended complaint.

51. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “51” of the amended complaint.

52. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “52” of the amended complaint.

53. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “53” of the amended complaint.

54. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “54” of the amended complaint.

55. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “55” of the amended complaint.

56. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “56” of the amended complaint.

57. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “57” of the amended complaint.

58. In response to the allegations set forth in paragraph “58” of the amended complaint, defendants repeat and reallege paragraphs “1” through “57” of this answer as if fully set forth herein.

59. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “59” of the amended complaint.

60. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “60” of the amended complaint, including the presumption that excessive force was used.

61. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “61” of the amended complaint, including the presumption that excessive force was used.

62. Admit the allegations set forth in paragraph “62” of the amended complaint, except deny that excessive force was used and deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations concerning whether plaintiff had an epileptic seizure.

63. Deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in paragraph “63” of the amended complaint.

64. Deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in paragraph “64” of the amended complaint.

65. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “65” of the amended complaint.

66. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “66” of the amended complaint.

67. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “67” of the amended complaint.

68. In response to the allegations set forth in paragraph “68” of the amended complaint, defendants repeat and reallege paragraphs “1” through “67” of this answer as if fully set forth herein.

69. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “69” of the amended complaint.

70. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “70” of the amended complaint.

71. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “71” of the amended complaint.

72. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “72” of the amended complaint.

73. In response to the allegations set forth in paragraph “73” of the amended complaint, defendants repeat and reallege paragraphs “1” through “72” of this answer as if fully set forth herein.

74. Paragraph “74” of the amended complaint sets forth conclusions of law, rather than averments of fact, and accordingly no response is required.

75. Paragraph “75” of the amended complaint sets forth conclusions of law, rather than averments of fact, and accordingly no response is required.

76. Paragraph “76” of the amended complaint sets forth conclusions of law, rather than averments of fact, and accordingly no response is required.

77. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “77” of the amended complaint.

78. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “78” of the amended complaint.

79. In response to the allegations set forth in paragraph “79” of the amended complaint, defendants repeat and reallege paragraphs “1” through “78” of this answer as if fully set forth herein.

80. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “80” of the amended complaint.

81. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “81” of the amended complaint, except admit that plaintiff Evelyn Camacho purports to proceed as stated therein.

82. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “82” of the amended complaint.

83. In response to the allegations set forth in paragraph “83” of the amended complaint, defendants repeat and reallege paragraphs “1” through “82” of this answer as if fully set forth herein.

84. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “84” of the amended complaint.

85. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “85” of the amended complaint, including the presumption that plaintiff Francisco Camacho was denied proper medical treatment.

86. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “86” of the amended complaint.

87. Deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in paragraph “80” of the amended complaint.

88. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “87” of the amended complaint.

89. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “88” of the amended complaint.

90. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “89” of the amended complaint.

91. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “90” of the amended complaint.

92. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “91” of the amended complaint.

93. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “92” of the amended complaint.

94. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “93” of the amended complaint.

95. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “94” of the amended complaint.

96. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “95” of the amended complaint.

97. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “96” of the amended complaint.

98. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “97 ” of the amended complaint.

AS AND FOR A FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE:

99. The amended complaint fails to states a claim upon which relief can be granted.

AS AND FOR A SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE:

100. At all times relevant to the acts alleged in the amended complaint, defendant City of New York, its agents and officials, acted reasonably and properly in the lawful exercise of their discretion. Therefore, the City is entitled to governmental immunity from liability.

AS AND FOR A THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE:

101. Any injury alleged to have been sustained resulted from plaintiffs’ own culpable or negligent conduct and/or the intervening conduct of third parties and was not the proximate result of any act of the defendants.

AS AND FOR A FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE:

102. Plaintiffs' state law claims may be barred in part for failure to comply with conditions precedent to suit, pursuant to New York General Municipal Law §§ 50-e and 50-i.

AS AND FOR A FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE:

103. Defendants have not violated any rights, privileges or immunities under the Constitution or laws of the United States or the State of New York or any political subdivision thereof, nor have defendants violated any Act of Congress providing for the protection of civil rights.

AS AND FOR A SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE:

104. The plaintiffs cannot obtain punitive damages as against the City of New York.

AS AND FOR A SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE:

105. There was probable cause for plaintiff Francisco Camacho's arrest, detention and prosecution.

AS AND FOR AN EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE:

106. Plaintiff Francisco Camacho provoked any incident.

AS AND FOR A NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE:

107. Defendants Dwight Thomas, Gregory Chavous and Louis Morselli have not violated any clearly established constitutional or statutory rights of which a reasonable person would have known and therefore are protected by qualified immunity.

AS AND FOR A TENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE:

108. The Court has no subject matter jurisdiction over plaintiff Evelyn Camacho's claim.

AS AND FOR AN ELEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE:

109. Plaintiffs' claims may be barred in part by the doctrines of *res judicata* or collateral estoppel.

AS AND FOR A THIRTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE:

110. Plaintiff's claims may be barred in part by the applicable period of limitations.

AS AND FOR A FOURTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE:

111. At all times relevant to the incident alleged, defendants Dwight Thomas, Gregory Chavous and Louis Morselli acted reasonably and in their proper and lawful exercise of their discretion, and therefore are entitled to qualified immunity.

WHEREFORE, defendants request judgment dismissing the amended complaint in its entirety, together with the costs and disbursements of this action, and such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: New York, New York
January 22, 2008

MICHAEL A. CARDOZO
Corporation Counsel of the
City of New York
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Santos, Hennig, Thomas, Chavous and Morselli
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By: /s
Michael Chestnov
Assistant Corporation Counsel
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TO: David A. Zelman, Esq.
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Index No. 07 Civ. 5581 (SHS)

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

FRANCISCO CAMACHO and
EVELYN CAMACHO,

Plaintiffs,

-against-

CITY OF NEW YORK, *et al.*,

Defendants.

**ANSWER TO THE AMENDED COMPLAINT ON
BEHALF OF DEFENDANTS MORSELLI, THOMAS
AND CHAVOUS**

MICHAEL A. CARDOZO

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Chavous
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New York, New York 10007*

*Of Counsel: Michael Chestnov
Tel: (212) 788-0991
NYCLIS No.*

Due and timely service is hereby admitted.

New York, N.Y., 200...

..... Esq.

Attorney for